

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (original): An electronic camera, comprising:  
2 an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
3 subject, and outputting an image signal;  
4 an image processing unit obtaining image data in a  
5 predetermined format based on the image signal captured  
6 by said image capturing unit;  
7 a setting unit setting an image capturing condition  
8 for capturing the image of the subject;  
9 a storing unit storing a plurality of pieces of  
10 image forming instruction information used when a visible  
11 image is formed based on the image data;  
12 a selecting unit selecting a predetermined piece of  
13 image forming instruction information from among the  
14 plurality of pieces of image forming instruction  
15 information stored in said storing unit, based on the  
16 image capturing condition set by said setting unit; and  
17 an outputting unit associating the image forming  
18 instruction information selected by said selecting unit  
19 with the image data, and outputting the image forming  
20 instruction information in association with the image  
21 data.

1 Claim 2 (original): An electronic camera, comprising:  
2 an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
3 subject, and outputting an image signal;  
4 an image processing unit obtaining image data in a  
5 predetermined format based on the image signal captured  
6 by said image capturing unit;

7           a shooting mode selecting unit selecting a mode used  
8   for shooting from among a plurality of shooting modes;  
9           a storing unit storing a plurality of image forming  
10   instruction modes used when a visible image is formed  
11   based on the image data;  
12           an image forming instruction mode selecting unit  
13   selecting a predetermined image forming instruction mode  
14   from among the plurality of image forming instruction  
15   modes stored in said storing unit based on the shooting  
16   mode selected by said shooting mode selecting unit; and  
17           an outputting unit associating the image forming  
18   instruction mode selected by said image forming  
19   instruction mode selecting unit with the image data, and  
20   outputting the image forming instruction mode in  
21   association with the image data.

1   Claim 3 (original): An electronic camera, comprising:  
2           an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
3   subject, and outputting an image signal;  
4           an image processing unit obtaining image data in a  
5   predetermined format based on the image signal captured  
6   by said image capturing unit;  
7           an image capturing condition setting unit setting a  
8   condition for image capturing performed by said image  
9   capturing unit based on status of the subject;  
10           a storing unit storing a plurality of image forming  
11   instruction modes used when a visible image is formed  
12   based on the image data;  
13           an image forming instruction mode selecting unit  
14   selecting a predetermined image forming instruction mode  
15   from among the plurality of image forming instruction  
16   modes stored in said storing unit based on the condition

17 for image capturing, which is set by said image capturing  
18 condition setting unit; and  
19 an outputting unit associating the image forming  
20 instruction mode selected by said image forming  
21 instruction mode selecting unit with the image data, and  
22 outputting the image forming instruction mode in  
23 association with the image data.

1 Claim 4 (original): An electronic camera, comprising:  
2 an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
3 subject, and outputting an image signal;  
4 an image processing unit obtaining image data in a  
5 predetermined format based on the image signal captured  
6 by said image capturing unit;  
7 a shooting mode selecting unit selecting a mode used  
8 for shooting from among a plurality of shooting modes;  
9 an image capturing condition setting unit setting a  
10 condition for image capturing performed by said image  
11 capturing unit based on status of the subject;  
12 a storing unit storing a plurality of image forming  
13 instruction modes used when a visible image is formed  
14 based on the image data;  
15 an image forming instruction mode selecting unit  
16 selecting a predetermined image forming instruction mode  
17 from among the plurality of image forming instruction  
18 modes stored in said storing unit based on the shooting  
19 mode selected by said shooting mode selecting unit, and  
20 the condition for image capturing, which is set by said  
21 image capturing condition setting unit; and  
22 an outputting unit associating the image forming  
23 instruction mode selected by said image forming

24 instruction mode selecting unit with the image data, and  
25 outputting the image forming instruction mode in  
26 association with the image data.

1 Claim 5 (original): An electronic camera, comprising:  
2 an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
3 subject, and outputting an image signal;  
4 an image processing unit obtaining image data in a  
5 predetermined format based on the image signal captured  
6 by said image capturing unit;  
7 a setting unit setting an image capturing condition  
8 for capturing the image of the subject from among a  
9 plurality of image capturing conditions to which  
10 priorities are assigned;  
11 a storing unit storing a plurality of pieces of  
12 image forming instruction information used when a visible  
13 image is formed based on the image data;  
14 a selecting unit selecting a predetermined piece of  
15 image forming instruction information from among the  
16 plurality of pieces of image forming instruction  
17 information stored in said storing unit, based on a  
18 priority assigned to the image capturing condition set by  
19 said setting unit; and  
20 an outputting unit associating the image forming  
21 instruction information selected by said selecting unit  
22 with the image data, and outputting the image forming  
23 instruction information in association with the image  
24 data.

1 Claim 6 (original): The electronic camera according to  
2 claim 5, wherein:

3           the plurality of image capturing conditions include  
4   at least a mode used for shooting, and a condition for  
5   image capturing; and  
6           the mode used for shooting is assigned a priority  
7   higher than the condition for image capturing.

1   Claim 7 (original): An electronic camera system having  
2   an electronic camera, and an image forming apparatus,  
3   wherein:

4           the electronic camera comprises  
5                an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
6   subject, and outputting an image signal,  
7                an image processing unit obtaining image data  
8   in a predetermined format based on the image signal  
9   captured by said image capturing unit,  
10              a setting unit setting an image capturing  
11   condition for capturing the image of the subject,  
12              a storing unit storing a plurality of pieces of  
13   image forming instruction information used when a visible  
14   image is formed based on the image data,  
15              a selecting unit selecting a predetermined  
16   piece of image forming instruction information from among  
17   the plurality of pieces of image forming instruction  
18   information stored in said storing unit, based on the  
19   image capturing condition set by said setting unit and  
20              an outputting unit associating the image  
21   forming instruction information selected by said  
22   selecting unit with the image data, and outputting the  
23   image forming instruction information in association with  
24   the image data; and  
25           the image forming apparatus comprises

26           a reading unit reading image data to be formed  
27 as an image, and image forming instruction information in  
28 association with the image data,  
29           an image forming mode selecting unit selecting  
30 an image forming mode, which corresponds to the image  
31 forming instruction information read by said reading  
32 unit, from among a plurality of image forming modes  
33 performing an image forming process according to a  
34 different condition,  
35           an image forming processing unit performing an  
36 image quality forming process according to the image  
37 forming mode selected by said image forming mode  
38 selecting unit, and  
39           an image outputting unit outputting image data  
40 for which an image process is performed by said image  
41 forming processing unit.

1   Claim 8 (original): A method associating predetermined  
2 information with image data, and outputting the  
3 predetermined information in association with the image  
4 data , comprising:  
5       setting an image capturing condition for capturing  
6 an image of a subject;  
7       capturing the image of the subject, and outputting  
8 an image signal;  
9       obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
10 on the image signal;  
11       selecting a predetermined piece of image forming  
12 instruction information from among a plurality of pieces  
13 of image forming instruction information used when a  
14 visible image is formed based on the obtained image data,  
15 according to the set image capturing condition; and

16 associating the selected image forming instruction  
17 information with the obtained image data, and outputting  
18 the image forming instruction information in association  
19 with the image data.

1 Claim 9 (original): A method associating predetermined  
2 information with image data, and outputting the  
3 predetermined information in associating with the image  
4 data, comprising:  
5 selecting a mode used for shooting from among a  
6 plurality of shooting modes;  
7 capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an  
8 image signal;  
9 obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
10 on the image signal;  
11 selecting a predetermined image forming instruction  
12 mode from among a plurality of image forming instruction  
13 modes used when a visible image is formed based on the  
14 obtained image data, according to the selected shooting  
15 mode; and  
16 associating the selected image forming instruction  
17 mode with the obtained image data, and outputting the  
18 image forming instruction mode in associating with the  
19 image data.

1 Claim 10 (original): A method associating predetermined  
2 information with image data, and outputting the  
3 predetermined information in association with the image  
4 data, comprising:  
5 setting a condition for image capturing based on  
6 status of a subject;

7 capturing an image of the subject, and outputting an  
8 image signal;  
9 obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
10 on the image signal;  
11 selecting a predetermined image forming instruction  
12 mode from among a plurality of image forming instruction  
13 modes used when a visible image is formed based on the  
14 obtained image data, according to the set condition for  
15 image capturing; and  
16 associating the selected image forming instruction  
17 mode with the obtained image data, and outputting the  
18 image forming instruction mode in association with the  
19 image data.

1 Claim 11 (original): A method associating predetermined  
2 information with image data, and outputting the  
3 predetermined information in association with the image  
4 data, comprising:  
5 selecting a mode used for shooting from among a  
6 plurality of shooting modes;  
7 setting a condition for image capturing based on  
8 status of a subject;  
9 capturing an image of the subject, and outputting an  
10 image signal;  
11 obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
12 on the image signal;  
13 selecting a predetermined image forming instruction  
14 mode from among a plurality of image forming instruction  
15 modes used when a visible image is formed based on the  
16 obtained image data, according to the selected shooting  
17 mode and the set condition for image capturing; and



18 associating the selected image forming instruction  
19 mode with the obtained image data, and outputting the  
20 image forming instruction mode in associating with the  
21 image data.

1 Claim 12 (original): A method associating predetermined  
2 information with image data, and outputting the  
3 predetermined information in association with the image  
4 data, comprising:  
5 setting an image capturing condition for capturing  
6 an image of a subject from among a plurality of image  
7 capturing conditions to which priorities are assigned;  
8 capturing the image of the subject, and outputting  
9 an image signal;  
10 obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
11 on the image signal;  
12 selecting a predetermined piece of image forming  
13 instruction information from among a plurality of pieces  
14 of image forming instruction information used when a  
15 visible image is formed based on the obtained image data,  
16 according to a priority assigned to the set image  
17 capturing condition; and  
18 associating the selected image forming instruction  
19 information with the obtained image data, and outputting  
20 the image forming instruction information in associating  
21 with the image data.

1 Claim 13 (original): An image forming method,  
2 comprising:  
3 setting an image capturing condition for capturing  
4 an image of a subject,

5 capturing the image of the subject, and outputting  
6 an image signal,  
7 obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
8 on the image signal,  
9 selecting a predetermined piece of image forming  
10 instruction information from among a plurality of pieces  
11 of image forming instruction information used when a  
12 visible image is formed based on the obtained image data,  
13 according to the set image capturing condition, and  
14 associating the selected image forming instruction  
15 information with the obtained image data, and outputting  
16 the image forming instruction information in associating  
17 with the image data, in an electronic camera; and  
18 reading image data to be formed as an image, and  
19 image forming instruction information in associating with  
20 the image data,  
21 selecting an image forming mode which corresponds to  
22 the read image forming instruction information from among  
23 a plurality of image forming modes performing an image  
24 forming process according to a different condition,  
25 performing an image quality forming process  
26 according to the selected image forming mode, and  
27 outputting the image data for which the image  
28 process is performed as the image quality forming  
29 process, in an image forming apparatus.

1 Claim 14 (original): An electronic camera, comprising:  
2 an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
3 subject, and outputting an image signal;  
4 an image processing unit obtaining image data in a  
5 predetermined format based on the image signal captured  
6 by said image capturing unit;

7           a shooting condition correcting unit correcting a  
8 shooting condition for exposure or image quality at the  
9 time of shooting;  
10          a setting unit setting correction instruction  
11 information for instructing a correction for a process  
12 performed when a visible image is formed from the image  
13 data, based on the shooting condition corrected by said  
14 shooting condition correcting unit; and  
15          an outputting unit associating the correction  
16 instruction information for instructing a correction for  
17 a process performed when a visible image is formed, which  
18 is set by said setting unit, with the image data and  
19 outputting the correction instruction information in  
20 association with the image data.

1   Claim 15 (original): The electronic camera according to  
2   claim 14, wherein  
3          said setting unit sets correction instruction  
4   information for instructing whether or not to make a  
5   correction for each process that includes at least any of  
6   a grayscale process, a color process, and a sharpness  
7   process, which are performed when a visible image is  
8   formed from the image data, based on the shooting  
9   condition corrected by said shooting condition correcting  
10   unit.

1   Claim 16 (original): The electronic camera according to  
2   claim 15, wherein  
3          said setting unit sets correction instruction  
4   information for instructing corrections for a plurality  
5   of combined processes performed when a visible image is  
6   formed from the image data, based on the shooting

7 condition corrected by said shooting condition correcting  
8 unit.

1 Claim 17 (original): An electronic camera system having  
2 an electronic camera and an image forming apparatus,  
3 wherein:

4 the electronic camera comprises

5 an image capturing unit capturing an image of a  
6 subject, and outputting an image signal,

7 an image processing unit obtaining image data  
8 in a predetermined format based on the image signal  
9 captured by said image capturing unit,

10 a shooting condition correcting unit correcting  
11 a shooting condition for exposure or image quality at the  
12 time of shooting,

13 a setting unit setting correction instruction  
14 information for instructing a correction for a process  
15 performed when a visible image is formed from the image  
16 data, based on the shooting condition corrected by said  
17 shooting condition correcting unit, and

18 an outputting unit associating the correction  
19 instruction information for instructing a correction for  
20 a process performed when a visible image is formed, which  
21 is set by said setting unit, with the image data and  
22 outputting the correction instruction information in  
23 association with the image data; and

24 the image forming apparatus comprises

25 a reading unit reading image data to be formed  
26 as an image, and correction instruction information in  
27 association with the image data,

28                   an image forming processing unit performing an  
29 image quality forming process based on the correction  
30 instruction information read by said reading unit, and  
31                   an outputting unit outputting the image data  
32 for which the image process is performed by said image  
33 forming processing unit.

1 Claim 18 (original): The electronic camera system  
2 according to claim 17, wherein  
3           said setting unit sets correction instruction  
4 information for instructing whether or not to make a  
5 correction for each process which includes at least any  
6 of a grayscale process, a color process, and a sharpness  
7 process, which are performed when a visible image is  
8 formed from the image data, based on the shooting  
9 condition corrected by said shooting condition correcting  
10 unit.

1 Claim 19 (original): The electronic camera system  
2 according to claim 18, wherein  
3           said setting unit sets correction instruction  
4 information for instructing corrections for a plurality  
5 of combined processes performed when a visible image is  
6 formed from the image data, based on the shooting  
7 condition corrected by said shooting condition correcting  
8 unit.

1 Claim 20 (original): A method associating predetermined  
2 information with image data, and outputting the  
3 predetermined information in association with the image  
4 data, comprising:

5       correcting a shooting condition for exposure or  
6 image quality at the time of shooting;  
7       capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an  
8 image signal;  
9       obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
10 on the image signal;  
11       setting correction instruction information for  
12 instructing a correction for a process performed when a  
13 visible image is formed from the obtained image data,  
14 based on the corrected shooting condition; and  
15       associating the set correction instruction  
16 information for instructing the correction for the  
17 process performed when a visible image is formed with the  
18 image data, and outputting the correction instruction  
19 information in association with the image data.

1 Claim 21 (original): An image forming method,  
2 comprising:  
3       correcting a shooting condition for exposure or  
4 image quality at the time of shooting,  
5       capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an  
6 image signal,  
7       obtaining image data in a predetermined format based  
8 on the image signal,  
9       setting correction instruction information for  
10 instructing a correction for a process performed when a  
11 visible image is formed from the obtained image data,  
12 based on the corrected shooting condition, and  
13       associating the set correction instruction  
14 information for instructing the correction for the  
15 process performed when a visible image is formed with the  
16 image data, and outputting the correction instruction

17 information in association with the image data, in an  
18 electronic camera; and  
19 reading image data to be formed as an image, and  
20 correction instruction information in association with  
21 the image data,  
22 performing an image quality forming process based on  
23 the read correction instruction information, and  
24 outputting the image data for which the image  
25 process is performed as the image quality forming  
26 process, in an image forming apparatus.

Claims 22-47 (canceled)